United Nations A/68/7/Add.16

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 69 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1

Seventeenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/16) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

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3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General contains information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (para. 3); (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (paras. 4-10); and (c) estimated resource requirements for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (paras. 11-14).

4. The estimated resource requirements for 2014 are as follows:

(a) The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar ($1,363,400 (net)): the requirements have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327/Add.1);

(b) The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar ($73,600): the requirement has been provided under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6) (sect. 24).

5. In its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/7/Add.10), the Advisory Committee has made comments and recommendations with respect to the proposed resources for 2014 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar. The Committee recalls, in particular, that it was informed, upon enquiry, that after the finalization of the resource requirements for 2014, it had been confirmed that resources for consultancy requirements, in the amount of $24,800, would no longer be required, as the expertise was now available and work was being done by others within the United Nations system. The Committee has, therefore, recommended a reduction of $24,800 from the proposed resources for 2014 for the Office (ibid., para. 64).

6. The Advisory Committee further recalls that, during its consideration of the proposed resources for special political missions for 2014, it noted that a provision of $1,002,800 was proposed for international staff in the Office of the Special Adviser on Myanmar, whereas the actual expenditure in 2012 and the projected expenditure for 2013 were much lower. The Committee was informed that no vacancy factor had been applied in estimating the budgets for 2012 and 2013, and that it was assumed that all positions would be encumbered for the full period in 2014. The Committee has requested that the Secretary-General provide the most updated information on the incumbency rate of the Office and on recruitment status, if applicable, to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the budget for 2014 (ibid., para. 62).

7. **Subject to its recommendation in its report A/68/7/Add.10, paragraph 64 (see para. 5 above), which is currently before the General Assembly for consideration, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1, resource requirements amounting to $1,338,600 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 for the continuation of the good offices efforts of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Those requirements would be charged against the provision for special political missions included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**